

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.:JNHM-144

Title: Prevalence of the ureC and hpmA genes in *Proteus mirabilis* isolated from urinary tract infections in Iraq.

Recommendation:

Accept after major revision

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality	Yes			
Techn. Quality		Yes		
Clarity		Yes		
Significance	Yes			

Reviewer's ID: JPR-237

Detailed Reviewer's Report

The manuscript has scientific merit and addresses an important clinical issue. However, substantial revisions are required to correct methodological inconsistencies, improve language quality, clarify the study design, resolve the study period discrepancy, and strengthen the interpretation of the statistical findings. After below mentioned issues are addressed, the manuscript could be suitable for publication.

1. The abstract states that the study was conducted during "summer 2024 to early winter 2025," but later mentions "October 2023 to September 2033." The period "2033" is clearly a typographical error.

2. Study design needs clarification

The sentence: "This study has been conducted a cross-sectional research design..." is grammatically incorrect. Suggested revision:

"A cross-sectional study was conducted between October 2023 and September 2024."

3. Sampling information is insufficient: Indicate whether the 78 isolates were consecutive isolates or randomly selected. Mention the hospital(s), geographic location, and inclusion/exclusion criteria.

4. Molecular methods require more detail: Mention whether DNA extraction was performed using a commercial kit or boiling method. Specify primer references or indicate that primer sequences are provided in the Methods section.

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5. Statistical analysis: The abstract reports significant associations but does not mention the statistical tests used. Indicate whether Chi-square or Fisher's exact test was employed. If possible, include odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals.

6. Association does not imply causations: The conclusion implies that virulence genes contribute to antimicrobial resistance. Since this is a cross-sectional observational study, the findings demonstrate association, not causation.

7. Clearly state what makes this study novel. For example: first report from Iraq, first evaluation of both genes simultaneously, first analysis of correlation with antimicrobial resistance.